

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

AUGUST, 1943

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO

VOL. 10, NO. 11

MEMBERSHIP

OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

APRIL 15, 1943

Alabama	63,689
Arizona	10,278
Arkansas	42,806
California	307,501
Colorado	47,978
Connecticut	27,215
Delaware	5,680
District of Columbia	19,865
Florida	61,849
Georgia	54,854
Hawaii	10,949
Idaho	8,796
Illinois	194,423
Indiana	75,100
Iowa	52,390
Kansas	47,700
Kentucky	41,971
Louisiana	22,198
Maine	5,233
Maryland	14,410
Massachusetts	32,114
Michigan	91,551
Minnesota	56,062
Mississippi	17,719
Missouri	73,804
Montana	10,062
Nebraska	26,223
Nevada	2,088
New Hampshire	4,460
New Jersey	113,779
New Mexico	4,985
New York	102,655
North Carolina	85,476
North Dakota	11,239
Ohio	191,475
Oklahoma	41,505
Oregon	30,045
Pennsylvania	135,668
Rhode Island	11,432
South Carolina	16,728
South Dakota	10,620
Tennessee	80,859
Texas	136,170
Utah	24,018
Vermont	7,937
Virginia	54,886
Washington	50,089
West Virginia	39,379
Wisconsin	31,059
Wyoming	3,123
St. Thomas, V.I.	50
Puerto Rico	200
Total	2,612,345

The P. T. A. Stands Steadfast

TIMES OF CRISIS have never retarded the work of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Its leaders and members may have had to find new ways to accomplish their child welfare tasks, but, no matter what changes were necessary, parent-teacher effort and parent-teacher purpose have remained steadfast. Our valiant pioneer founders met in convention in Washington while Dewey was capturing Manila Bay. Their successors made parent-teacher history during World War I and during the depression years, and today all over America parent-teacher leaders and members are contributing their share to our war effort while at the same time they maintain their fundamental programs of child care, protection, and education.

The following highlights taken from state presidents' reports indicate a high degree of present-day parent-teacher activity in spite of wartime handicaps, for the work goes on regardless of dimouts, gas shortages, and congested transportation facilities. When parent-teacher members cannot ride, they walk. They make use of municipal transportation facilities when the loads are lightest. Where driving is restricted, they pool their gas; as many as possible ride in one car. They time their meetings to combine them with other community or county activities. They use round-robin news letters and round-robin visitors and guest reporters to keep their members informed and interested.

We cannot include in this one issue of the *Bulletin* excerpts from all reports. Other items will appear in subsequent issues. The state presidents' reports in full will be available in the annual *Proceedings*, which can be secured by any parent-teacher association for \$1 provided the order is sent to the National Office prior to August 25, 1943.

BETTER LAWS AND NEWER GOALS IN PENNSYLVANIA

The legislative committee of the Pennsylvania Congress has been very active this year. The bill providing a bonus increase in teachers' salaries was passed. A bill to lower the age limit for farm and domestic labor was protested in committee by the Congress. All national legislation recommended by the National Congress has been supported by the Pennsylvania Congress.

In keeping with the times, Pennsylvania formulated two sets of goals for this year. For associations able to continue on their way unhampered by transportation or other wartime difficulties, a set of standard goals was provided. For those whose meetings and programs were controlled by wartime restrictions, an application for recognition of excellence in wartime service was established. For the first, a standard certificate was offered;

for the second, a Victory certificate.

Because of Pennsylvania's place in industry, the need for the latter type of recognition is tremendous. Local reports have brought a vivid picture of the results, which include active projects in fingerprinting and identifying children, invoking the law for juvenile protection, serving school lunches, taking Red Cross courses in first aid, doing canteen work and home nursing, and sponsoring the Red Cross blood bank for whole days at a time.

(Continued on page 2)

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

600 SOUTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

State Office: 316 Insurance Building, Madison, Wisconsin

ALL-INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP CARD

NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL, 1942-1944

This certifies that

[NAME] [TOWN]

IS A MEMBER OF THE
A UNIT OF THE STATE AND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND THAT ALL
ANNUAL DUES HAVE BEEN PAID.

Mrs. WILLIAM A. HASTINGS
National President

Mrs. C. A. CHATTERTON
State President

President of the Local Association

(OVER)

• This card is a symbol of parenthood and teacherhood united in volunteer service to America's children.

(Continued from page 1)

NEBRASKA VICE-PRESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

Because of the number of major war industries already in Nebraska and the possible increase of 500,000 in population, the state president suggested that the seven vice-presidents be named as a special wartime committee. Their first meeting was called in July, to formulate a program and to suggest how local units might meet the special wartime needs of children. Wide publicity was given through the newspapers and through distribution of 15,000 printed copies of the program. *The National Congress Bulletin* and the *War Handbook* proved effective helps in handling the program.

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES

The Arkansas Congress supported twenty-two bills that passed the state legislature. The state congress urged maintenance of the Farm Security Administration, which involves continuation of the school lunch program. All items of the National Congress legislative program were approved by the state congress.

A special effort has been made in Arkansas to circulate government films on the various programs of the war effort. The Arkansas State Teachers College, at which the state visual education chairman is director of the Public Welfare Department, sent, upon request, 474 films to thirty different colleges, schools, and parent-teacher groups. As a teaching aid, this program is limited in Arkansas only by the amount of equipment available for showing the films.

OREGON'S SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Probably the project most affected by wartime handicaps in Oregon has been the hot school lunch. In spite of this fact, however, March 1943 saw 28,000 children in 545 schools given these lunches regularly. In the majority of these schools supplementary milk was furnished. A school lunch exhibit was held during the biennial convention in April, and a conference was conducted.

NEW JERSEY DEALS WITH WAR HANDICAPS

In spite of the shortage of physicians, dentists, and nurses, 527 New Jersey units registered for the Summer Round-

Up and 356 carried it through — eleven more than in 1941. New Jersey won second place among the states meeting the national requirements. The number of children examined was 6,859. Eighteen thousand dental health forms from the State Department of Health were sent out with the Summer Round-Up form.

Parent education study group membership in New Jersey was 19,017. These groups were led by members, educators, doctors, and nurses. Three hundred and seventeen persons attended leadership training classes; 404 attended the September sectional meeting held in cooperation with the State Extension Service.

The rural service program, in spite of the curtailment of meetings, has continued all its regular activities, with special emphasis on the hot school lunch. A program for better rural schools is being conducted.

LEGISLATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

The legislature was in session this year, and the state congress carried on a remarkably successful campaign for various child welfare measures. The president and others made frequent visits to the legislature and spoke at hearings on various bills. Practically all items on the state congress' program were successful. Among them were provisions for a new state board of education, a substantial war bonus to increase teachers' pay, and a state-wide, state-supported nine-month school term. A strong effort was also made to secure Federal aid for education, and other national legislation was stressed, particularly that related to the safety of children.

CALIFORNIA COMBATS DELINQUENCY

Juvenile Protection committees have made studies of the delinquency problem; promoted special activities to keep children off the streets; served with representatives of other organizations interested in the problems of youth; and worked to prevent the issuance of liquor licenses to establishments near school premises and playgrounds. Women have served as deputy police and as aides to policewomen; gambling has been prevented; curfew laws have been secured. Several projects have been sponsored to provide care for children of working mothers, and surveys to determine needs have been conducted.

Food Conservation Campaign

REDUCING the waste of the nation's food supply has become a major problem of the war effort. The Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch of the Food Distribution Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is launching an active campaign against waste. The all-out cooperation of all national organizations, including the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, is invited.

Most Americans would probably be surprised to know just how much they do waste. Before the war broke out, the figure was 235 pounds of edible food per family per year! No other country in the world would find this even conceivable. The waste of bread in most European nations is considered unpardonable — as in wartime it certainly is. If every American family wasted just one slice of bread per week, the total would be a hundred million loaves of bread a year. Yet how many families are there in which at least one slice of bread is not wasted *every day*?

Food production has been stepped up wherever possible. But production alone is not enough. We have our armed forces to feed, and it is expected that by the end of the current year they will number some ten million men and women. We must supply food to our fighting Allies, and we must keep our civilian population in fighting trim. This means that all waste must cease. Food today is precious and must be treated accordingly. Better buying, better storage, better cooking, and better preparation will save hundreds of tons of food every day. Homes, schools, and the parent-teacher associations can help to accomplish that saving.

The P.T.A. Clicks with CLICK

The October issue of *Click* magazine will feature a five-page "picture essay" on the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The *Click* article will explain to an audience of more than 2,000,000 persons just what the P.T.A. is and how it functions. Typical P.T.A. activities in Freeport, Long Island, were photographed: an old-fashioned square dance, for recreation; a rummage sale, for conservation and salvage; an over-shoe exchange; a Victory garden project and a canning project; and a nursery for preschool children.

This issue of *Click* will be on the newsstands September 1.

STREAMLINERS

A CABLE from Hawaii informs us that Mrs. H. N. Sobeloff was elected president of the Hawaii Congress at its recent convention.

The Utah Congress is finding that rural units are not having as many meetings but that attendance at urban meetings is breaking all records. For example, one local president states that, whereas they have usually had fifty out to a meeting, they now have over 200. The people seem to feel that they have an obligation to child welfare."

From Australia has come an order for three copies of *Community Life in a Democracy*.

In a letter to Mrs. Hastings, Srta. Minerva Bernardino, a member of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Dominican Republic, informs us that at the First Woman's Congress held recently in her country a call was issued to all women in all the Americas to contribute toward defense of the sacred principles of democracy.

Fifty mothers and teachers from the Lincoln P.T.A. of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, helped to harvest the potato crop when a labor shortage developed there. Some members, unable to work, drove their cars, taking the workers to and from the fields; others took care of the young children of those who wanted to help. According to the report, there were some tired backs, but everybody made it a picnic occasion and all had a good time.

The first radio station to use the Radio script Service was KGLO of Mason City, Iowa. The script "War Changes Things for Children" was broadcast from there on May 26, 1943.

The national chairman of Publicity, Mrs. John Hayes, took part in the annual meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Home and School in April, bringing greetings from the National Congress and delivering the keynote address, "The Family in a World at War." The Canadian delegates were greatly interested in the wartime efforts and experiences of Congress units. The most insistent emphasis of the convention was in the spiritual growth of all citizens as influenced by home, church, and school.

Idaho has the highest percentage of members subscribing to the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER.

Clear Thinking About the P. T. A.



FROM time to time in recent months local leaders have raised the following question: "The members of my P.T.A. want to disband; they see that they can no longer meet together, so how is the P.T.A. to exist?"

This is an important question and a far-reaching one. To it national officers have given a great deal of thought. We present now for your guidance several of their answers to this question or to similar questions.

The work of a P.T.A. group is not confined exclusively to what is done when ten, twenty, thirty, or a hundred fathers, mothers, and teachers meet together once a month in a schoolhouse. The monthly meetings are important because they give the members an opportunity to talk about common problems, to get to know each other better, to report progress on activities undertaken, or to hear a speaker discussing some subject in which they are interested. But it isn't always at parent-teacher meetings that parent-teacher members make their greatest contributions to the welfare and protection of children. Much of their strength as a group is the result of their daily exercise of a parent-teacher attitude toward all local and national issues that have a bearing on the well-being and happiness of the children in their own homes, in their neighbors' homes, and in the schoolrooms of the community.

1. As long as the P.T.A. is in existence its members will have a strong supporting bond in common.

Your community needs the P.T.A. and the P.T.A. needs you. Keep your membership active and you will be ready at all times to serve children and youth as a member of one of the world's greatest volunteer organizations, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

2. As long as the P.T.A. is in existence its members will know that when the need arises they are ready and organized to go into action on any child welfare front that needs their support.

3. As long as the P.T.A. is in existence the interests that prey upon children by exploitation, that seek to scuttle part of the school program, that care not if all our welfare agencies disintegrate, will think twice before bringing upon themselves the righteous wrath of the organized parents and teachers of the community.

4. As long as the P.T.A. is in existence its leaders can assign certain tasks to individuals or to small committees composed of members who live near each other. These tasks can be carried on even if all the members of the association cannot get together frequently.

5. As long as the P.T.A. is in existence there will be a medium through which the best current knowledge of child care, education, and character development can reach parents in every part of the nation. Can we afford to do without such a medium, with the world in its present state?

6. As long as the P.T.A. is in existence the democratic way of life will have the strong support of the citizens most concerned with its perpetuation — the fathers, mothers, and educators of the future citizenry of this nation. Is not this worth some additional effort in the face of the comparatively mild handicaps that confront Americans today?

ATTENTION, RADIO LISTENING GROUPS!

THE BAXTERS — Marge, Bill, and their engaging offspring — are on their way back to you for a return engagement, perhaps for twenty-six weeks this time! As before, the "Voice of the P.T.A." will interpret each dramatization. Dates and data will come to you in an early issue of the *Bulletin*.

Meanwhile, it is none too soon to get your groups together, so that when the opening broadcast is announced there will be no time lost in getting under way.

Last year's series was a great success, and this year's should be a greater.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 10 AUGUST, 1943 Number 11

Published monthly from August through May, bi-monthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

MAGAZINE SERVICE CLUBS

For the convenience of the membership, a number of local groups have formed Magazine Service Clubs. The members like the plan, for this reason: They don't as a rule bring much money with them to the meetings, and even though they are asked to subscribe they do not always have the dollar handy. But most of them have some change in their purses and don't mind paying 10c or 15c for a copy of the Magazine.

How Clubs Are Handled

Here is how these locals are handling the clubs: The executive committee asks the local Magazine chairman to find out how many members would like to buy a copy of the *National Parent-Teacher* each month. Usually ten, twelve or more members respond at once. The chairman reports back, and the executive committee then authorizes the treasurer to advance the money for the subscriptions, knowing that as the magazines are sold each month the association will be reimbursed.

The magazines are sent to the chairman, who distributes them to those who have agreed to buy them, and then turns over the money collected each month to the treasurer.

"Newsstand Basis" Popular

Associations that sell the copies for 15c each make 5c on each sale, but, on the whole, the clubs are treated more as a service to the group, and the P.T.A. usually charges only 10c per copy. Several of the associations that started off with ten subscriptions have increased their orders because more and more of the members are welcoming the opportunity to buy the Magazine on this "newsstand basis." The plan is especially popular in associations that have study groups.

Every P.T.A. leader who is promoting the use of the *National Parent-Teacher* is promoting parent education and home and school cooperation, and bringing into the community information and knowledge that will focus attention on the family as the basic unit of a democratic society.

Make arrangements for a Magazine Service Club in your P.T.A. You will notice a fundamental improvement in the quality of your parent-teacher work when the *National Parent-Teacher* is read regularly and widely in the homes of your community.

ANSWERING *Program* QUESTIONS



● Where can I find material for a P.T.A. program that will interest parents who have children in grade school?

In the *National Parent-Teacher*. The program "The Family's Stake in Freedom" will be ideal for your purpose. The first discussion outline will be published in the September 1943 issue.

● Our P.T.A. is forming a preschool section. Have you any preschool books we can buy?

Yes. Your national organization can supply several books at cost price. Making available practical and helpful literature to member units is one of the important services rendered by the National Congress. The national Publications chairman suggests:

Guiding the Young Child 10c

Parents and the Preschool Child 25c

National Parent-Teacher study course, "Basic Training for the Toddler," together with all the other splendid articles, stories, outlines, poems, and features that make up the Magazine \$1

● I'm a local program chairman. Where can I find some suggested plans for my work?

Look on page 153 of the 1943 *Parent-Teacher Manual*. Each local president has a copy of the *Manual*, and extra copies may be purchased from your state congress office. (Prices vary from 10c to 20c in the different states.) Also refer to the booklet *Program Planning*. A copy of it should be on your P.T.A. Bookshelf.

● Where can I get information about program material that will be suitable for the participation of high school youth?

Read *Community Life in a Democracy*, particularly the chapters "Linking

the Schools with Life," "For the Common Good," and "On the Vocational Outlook." An unusual and interesting program might also be built on the chapter "For Whom the Trail Is Steep." Young people have quick sympathies and will respond heartily to an appeal that they interest themselves in those less fortunate.

● Is there anything I can do, as program chairman, to prevent the loss of members and the disbanding of P.T.A. units?

Definitely yes. You have more power to act in this direction than you will ever find time to use up. Make a really intensive study of National Congress publications — *Community Life in a Democracy*, *Parents and the Preschool Child*, *The P.T.A. in Community Service*, and especially the *National Parent-Teacher*. Then ask yourself, "Which of these ideas will make our members not only enjoy themselves at this meeting but want to make sure of future meetings?" Give plenty of consideration to your members' natural desire to express themselves; promote plenty of free and open discussion. The Magazine is full of thought-provoking materials.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Be sure to read "Juvenile Delinquency — A National Emergency" by J. Edgar Hoover in the September 1943 issue of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER. Is the chairman of your local Juvenile Protection committee a subscriber to the Magazine? If not, ask the Magazine chairman to get in touch with him at once and call this article to his attention. No Juvenile Protection chairman can afford to be without the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER Magazine today.

